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Montana Agricultural Statistics Service

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Specialty Crops County Estimates
Potato Stocks
Montana's Rank
Red Meat Production
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Quarterly Milk Production

Specialty Crop County Estimates for 2004

The Montana Agricultural Statistics Service released county estimates for the 2004 pulse crops and oilseeds. This is the sixth year of the data series. County-level data are not always published because of established disclosure rules. Funding for these county estimates was provided by the Montana Department of Agriculture.

All dry bean production for 2004 totaled 285,000 cwt. The South Central district produced the greatest at 107,000 cwt, followed by the Northeast district with 80,000 cwt and the Southeast district at 71,000 cwt. **Pinto bean** production during 2004 was 252,000 cwt for the State. Carbon County had the highest pinto bean production with 60,000 cwt. The second and third leading counties were Yellowstone and Prairie with 38,000 cwt. and 36,000 cwt, respectively. The South Central district produced the largest crop of pinto beans at 107,000 cwt, followed by the Southeast district with 71,000 cwt. As for **garbanzo beans**, county-level data was not published to avoid disclosure of individual information. Total garbanzo bean production totaled 33,000 cwt, of which the Northeast district produced 26,000 cwt.

Sheridan was the number one **lentil** producing county again in 2004, with 505,000 cwt harvested. The number two county was Daniels with total production

of 177,000 cwt., and third was Roosevelt County with 123,000 cwt. Growers from the Northeast district produced 91 percent of the State's lentils. **Dry edible pea** estimates indicate that Valley County was the largest producer in 2004 with 314,000 cwt grown, followed by Sheridan County at 220,000 cwt, and Roosevelt County at 217,000 cwt. Northeast district farmers produced 76 percent of the State's dry peas. Liberty was the leading county in **Austrian winter pea** production during 2004 with 17,000 cwt and Richland County was second with 3,200 cwt. produced. The North Central district produced 54 percent of the State's Austrian winter peas in 2004.

Daniels was by far the largest **canola** producing county in 2004 with 7.6 million pounds, or 32 percent of the State's canola harvest. The second largest county was Pondera with 4.5 million pounds produced, followed by Sheridan County with 2.1 million pounds. The Northeast district produced 57 percent of the crop. Richland was the number one **safflower** producing county with 5.5 million pounds. The next leading county was Dawson at 3.2 million pounds, followed by Roosevelt's production of 2.6 million pounds. Seventy-five percent of the State's safflower was produced in the Northeast district.

Sheridan led the State in **flaxseed** production for 2004 with 148,000 bushels. The next largest county was Valley with 104,000 bushels, followed by Roosevelt County at 15,000 bushels. Ninety-six percent of the State's flaxseed was produced in the Northeast district. Montana's total **sunflower** production was 4.4 million pounds in 2004. The Northeast district accounted for 4.0 million pounds. Data for the other districts was combined to avoid disclosing individual information.

Valley County led the State in **mustard seed** production with 2.6 million pounds. Ninety-four percent of Montana's mustard seed was produced in the Northeast district.

All of the preceding information, plus yield, planted and harvested acres by county, district, and State levels are now available from the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. They are available in printed form or can be accessed by visiting our website at www.nass.usda.gov/mt/. The Montana Agricultural Statistics Service compiles the only annual county estimates for Montana. These county statistics are based on an acreage and production survey of Montana farmers and ranchers conducted in the fall of 2004. Thanks to those who participated!

April 1, 2005 Potato Stocks

Montana potato producers held 2.0 million cwt of potatoes in storage on April 1, 2005, down 13 percent from the previous year. Fifty-six percent of the 2004 Montana potato crop is still in storage, compared with 69 percent in 2004.

The 15 major potato States held 130 million cwt of potatoes in storage April 1, 2005, up 3 percent from both last year and April 1, 2003. Potatoes in storage account for 32 percent of the 2004 fall storage States' production, 1 percentage point above last year.

Disappearance of 274 million cwt from the start of harvest to April 1, is down 1 percent from last year and 3 percent below two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 26.8 million cwt, is up 6 percent from last year and 11 percent above the same date in 2003. (continued on page two)

April 1, 2005 Potato Stocks

(continued from front page)

Processors have used 136 million cwt of 2004 crop potatoes so far this season, down 1 percent from a year ago and 6 percent below two years ago. March usage, at 16.6 million cwt, is 3 percent below last year and down 8 percent from two years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon, processing increased 3 percent from a year ago, while Washington and the rest of Oregon processing decreased 2 percent from last season. Dehydrating usage accounts for 27.8 million cwt of the total processing, down 8 percent from last year and 13 percent below the same date in 2003.

Western States held 91.6 million cwt of potatoes in storage on April 1, up 6 percent from last year but 1 percent below two years ago. Idaho's and Colorado's potato stocks are both up 13 percent from last year and Washington's potato sheds stored 2 percent more than last year. Oregon's potato stocks are down 26 percent, Montana's sheds hold 13 percent less than last year, and California's stocks decreased 10 percent from a year ago.

March 2005 Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.1 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during March 2005, down 8 percent from March 2004 and 4 percent below February 2005. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,400 head, down 100 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,147 pounds, increased 8 pounds from last year.

During March there were 1,100 hogs slaughtered, unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight, at 239 pounds, dropped 11 pounds from last year. March sheep slaughter in the state totaled 300 head, up 100 head from March 2004. The average live weight dropped 12 pounds to 124 pounds from last year.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.88 billion pounds in March, down 2 percent from the 3.95 billion pounds produced in March 2004.

Beef production, at 2.04 billion

pounds, was 3 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.72 million head, down 5 percent from March 2004. The average live weight was up 21 pounds from the previous year, at 1,238 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.3 million pounds, 6 percent below March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 67,900 head, down 11 percent from March 2004. The average live weight was 20 pounds above last year, at 328 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.80 billion pounds, up slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.95 million head, 1 percent below March 2004. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 271 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 19.5 million pounds, was down 12 percent from March 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 280,300 head, 9 percent below last year. The average live weight was 139 pounds, down 5 pounds from March a year ago.

January to March 2005 commercial red meat production was 11.0 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 2004. Accumulated beef production was down 2 percent from last year, veal was down 13 percent, pork was up slightly from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 7 percent.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 1 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.9 million head on April 1, 2005. The inventory was 1 percent above April 1, 2004 and 1 percent above April 1, 2003. The inventory included 6.99 million steers and steer calves, up 5 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 64 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.80 million head, down 6 percent from 2004.

Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.76 million, 3 percent below 2004 and 13 percent below 2003. This is the second lowest placements for the month of March since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 1.69 million.

During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 299,000, 600-699 pounds were 320,000, 700-799 pounds were 614,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 527,000. Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.97 million, up slightly from 2004 and 9 percent above 2003. Other disappearance totaled 69,000 during March, 3 percent above 2004 and 11 percent above 2003.

March Egg Production

U.S. egg production totaled 7.73 billion during March 2005, up 2 percent from last year. Production included 6.60 billion table eggs, and 1.13 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.07 billion were broiler-type and 63 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during March 2005 averaged 347 million, up 2 percent from a year earlier. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,225 eggs, up 1 percent from March 2004.

All layers in the U.S. on April 1, 2005, totaled 345 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 345 million layers consisted of 286 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 56.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.63 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 2005, averaged 71.8 eggs per 100 layers, down slightly from a year ago.

Egg-type chicks hatched during March totaled 40.0 million, up 6 percent from March 2004. Eggs in incubators totaled 34.1 million on April 1, 2005, up 2 percent from a year ago. Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 314,000 during March 2005, down 22 percent from March 2004.

The March 2005 hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 816 million, was up 3 percent from March of the previous year. There were 658 million eggs in incubators on April 1, 2005, up 1 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.08 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during March 2005, up 4 percent from March 2004.

Montana's Rank in the Nation's Agriculture

ITEM	UNIT		PERIOD OR DATE	RANK	% U.S. Total
Land in farms and ranches	60,100,000	acres	2004	2	6.4
Number of farms and ranches	28,000	farms/ranches	2004	30	1.3
Average Farm Size	2,146	acres	2004	4	N/A
Income from cash receipts, excluding government payments:					
Total	1,892,144	thousand dollars	2003	34	0.9
Crops	786,878	thousand dollars	2003	31	0.7
Livestock	1,105,266	thousand dollars	2003	30	1.0
LIVESTOCK INVENTORY					
All Cattle & Calves	2,350,000	head	Jan. 1, 2005	12	2.5
All Cows	1,450,000	head	Jan. 1, 2005	9	3.4
Beef Cows	1,432,000	head	Jan. 1, 2005	7	4.3
Milk Cows	18,000	head	Jan. 1, 2005	39	0.2
Cattle on Feed	60,000	head	Jan. 1, 2005	23	0.4
All Sheep and Lambs	305,000	head	Jan. 1, 2005	6	5.0
Breeding Sheep	280,000	head	Jan. 1, 2005	5	6.2
Hogs and Pigs	165,000	head	Dec. 1, 2004	26	0.3
All Chickens	480,000	birds	Dec. 1, 2004	38	0.1
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION					
Calf Crop	1,520,000	head	2004	7	4.0
Lamb Crop	270,000	head	2004	4	6.6
Pig Crop	310,000	head	2004	29	0.3
Wool Production	2,472,000	pounds	2004	6	6.6
Egg Production	107,000,000	eggs	2004	38	0.1
Honey Production	10,780,000	pounds	2004	5	5.9
CROP PRODUCTION					
All Wheat	173,165,000	bushels	2004	3	8.0
Winter Wheat	66,830,000	bushels	2004	5	4.5
Durum Wheat	17,985,000	bushels	2004	2	20.0
Other Spring Wheat	88,350,000	bushels	2004	3	15.5
Barley	48,970,000	bushels	2004	3	17.5
Oats	2,400,000	bushels	2004	14	2.1
All Hay	4,760,000	tons	2004	14	3.0
Alfalfa Hay	3,220,000	tons	2004	9	4.3
Dry Beans, All	285,000	cwt	2004	10	1.6
Pinto Beans	252,000	cwt	2004	6	3.2
Garbanzo Beans, All	33,000	cwt	2004	7	5.6
Lentils	1,008,000	cwt	2004	3	24.1
Dry Edible Peas	1,266,000	cwt	2004	3	11.1
Austrian Winter Peas	72,000	cwt	2004	2	27.3
Potatoes--fall	3,551,000	cwt	2004	16	0.8
Sugar Beets	1,131,000	tons	2004	6	3.8
Flaxseed	342,000	bushels	2004	2	3.3
Corn for Grain	2,145,000	bushels	2004	40	1/
Corn for Silage	1,122,000	tons	2004	25	1.0
1/ Less than one-tenth of one percent.					

March U.S. Milk Production Up 3.1 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during March totaled 13.8 billion pounds, up 3.1 percent from March 2004. February revised production, at 12.3 billion pounds, was down 0.5 percent from February 2004. However, production was up 3.1 percent on a per day basis after adjusting for the leap year.

The February revision represented an increase of 30 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,704 pounds for March, 43 pounds above March 2004. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.10 million head, 38,000 head more than March 2004, and

21,000 head more than February 2005.

Milk production in the U.S. during the January-March quarter totaled 43.2 billion pounds, up 1.1 percent from the January-March quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.00 million head, 2,000 head more than the same period last year.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

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Meat Animals PDI	
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